

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11 RSC-01 IO-14

ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08 FEA-02 SCI-06 EB-11 DRC-01

/195 W

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P R 070906Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1283

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBSSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COLUMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBSSY DACCA

USINT CAIRO

USUN USMISSION 0055

CINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 0132

DEPT PASS OTHER ACTION POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR,UK, IO, TC

SUBJ: NOTIFICATION OF DEIGO GARCIA EXPANSION

REF: ABU DHABI 126

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SUMMARY:

CHARGE MADE LOW-KEY FOLLOW ON PRESENTATION TO ACTING FORMIN GHUBASH RE DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION. GHUBASH VERY RELAXED ABOUT ANNOUNCEMENT. HE COMMENTED: THAT US/UK AS SOVERIEIGN STATES HAD EVERY RIGHT TO CONCLUDE SUCH AGREEMENT: VIEWED IN EAST-WEST CONTEXT AGREEMENT PROBABLY STRENGTHENS SECURITY

OF GULF STATES, BUT THERE WILL BE SOME PEOPLE WHO MAY SEE SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS AGREEMENT AND RECENT EVENTS.

1. DURING CALL FEB 7 ON ACTING MINFOR AFF GHUBASH, I MADE SIMILAR LOW-KEY PRESENTATION TO THAT MADE BY UK AMB MCCARTHY FEB 5, WHICH REPORTED REFTEL. GHUBASH TOOK MUCH MORE RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANS FOR USG TO EXPAND SUPPORT FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA ISLAND PERSUANT TO EXISTING US/UK AGREEMENTS THAN I HAD EXPECTED. GHUBASH'S COMMENT CENTERED ON THREE MAIN POINTS.

A. AGREEMENT FOR EXPANSION OF BASE FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA BETWEEN TWO SOVEREIGN STATES, WHO ALSO HAPPEN TO BE MAJOR POWERS. US/UK HAVEEVERY RIGHT TO MAKE SUCH AGREEMENT, AS LONG AS IT NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY PARTICULAR THIRD POWER. IN THIS SENSE, HE ADMITTED AGREEMENT OF NO DIRECT CONCERN TO UAE, BUT HE THOUGHT SRI LANKE AND INDIA WOULD LIKELY BE DISTURBED.

B. SIMILARLY, IF AGREEMENT LOOKED AT IN OVERALL EAST-WEST RIVALRY CONTEXT, SMALL, NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATE LIKE UAE NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED. NEVERTHELESS, HE REALISTICALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TO EXTENT WESTERN STATES COUNTERED THE SOV INFLUENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND IN AREA GENERALLY, SECURITY AND STABILITY OF UAE AND ITS NEIGHBORS PROBABLY ENHANCED.

C. ON OTHER HAND, GHUBASH SAID HE WANTED USG TO BE AWARE THAT MENTALITY OF SOME PEOPLE IN UAE AND IN OTHER NEIGRBORING ARAB STATES MAY DRAW CONCLUSION THAT SOME CONNECTION, TENUOUS AS IT MAY BE, DOES EXIST BETWEEN FOLL FACTORS. 1) ARAB OIL EMBARGO AGAINST US; 2) RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF POSSIBLE US MIL MOVES (REGARDLESS HOW FAR FETCHED THEY MAY BE); 3) AND ANNOUNCEMENT RE DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION.

2. GHUBASH CLOSED DISCUSSION BY ASKING EMB KEEP HIM INFORMED
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OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. AS YET THERE NO LOCAL PRESS REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT.
GRIFFIN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ANY OTHER POSTS.

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NNN

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